

IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A protective device ~~(11, 21)~~ for the safety-related shutdown of an electrical unit, comprising:
having

_____ a first input for ~~the purpose of~~ receiving a switch-off signal;
_____ a second input for ~~the purpose of~~ receiving a switch-on signal in the form of a switch-on pulse ~~(401)~~; and

_____ an output for ~~the purpose of~~ driving the electrical unit ~~(14, 14', 24, 24')~~; and

characterized by

_____ a pulse processing device ~~(41)~~ for ~~the purpose of~~ setting the protective device ~~(11, 21)~~ to an activation state, in which it ~~can be~~ is switchable on when the switch-off signal is not applied, for a predetermined period of time from reception of the switch-on pulse.

2. (Currently Amended) The protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the switch-on signal ~~originating~~ originates from an on pushbutton ~~(33)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The protective device as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the switch-off signal ~~originating~~ originates from a latchable emergency-stop pushbutton ~~(12, 12', 22, 22')~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The protective device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the electrical unit ~~(14, 14', 24, 24')~~ being is an actuator ~~and, in particular, a contactor.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The protective device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the inputs and outputs ~~having~~ include a plurality of channels.

6. (Currently Amended) The protective device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein ~~it being possible for at least one of the falling edge and~~ both edges of the switch-on pulse ~~(401) to be~~ are evaluated by the pulse processing device ~~(41) for the purpose of setting the protective device to the activation state.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The protective device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the pulse processing device ~~(41) having~~ includes a timing element which provides an acknowledgment command for the purpose of maintaining the activation state for a predetermined time after the switch-on pulse ~~(401).~~

8. (Currently Amended) The protective device as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the predetermined period of time for the activation state ~~corresponding~~ corresponds to at least to one of ~~the~~ activation time of the electrical unit ~~(14, 14', 24, 24') and/or~~ a further protective device.

9. (Currently Amended) A protective system having a plurality of protective devices as claimed in claim 1, ~~(11, 21) connected in cascade fashion as claimed in one of the~~

~~preceding claims~~, the first input of a second of the plurality of protective devices ~~(21)~~ being driven by the output of a first of the plurality of protective devices ~~(11)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The protective system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the inputs of the plurality of protective devices ~~(11, 21)~~ being~~are~~ connected to a common on pushbutton ~~(33)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for safety-related switching of an electrical unit, the method comprising: ~~(14, 14', 24, 24')~~ by means of

- receiving a switch-off signal, ;
- switching the electrical unit ~~(14, 14', 24, 24')~~ off, ;
- receiving a switch-on signal in the form of a switch-on pulse; ~~(401)~~, and
- switching the electrical unit ~~(14, 14', 24, 24')~~ on, characterized in that
it is possible to switch the electrical unit being switchable ~~(14, 14', 24, 24')~~ on for a predeterminable period of time after reception of the switch-on pulse ~~(401)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the switch-on signal ~~originating~~ originates from an on pushbutton ~~(33)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 11 ~~or~~ 12, wherein the switch-off signal ~~originating~~ originates from a latchable emergency-stop pushbutton ~~(12, 12', 22, 22')~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~ claims 11 to 13, claim 11, wherein the electrical unit ~~(14,~~

~~14', 24, 24')~~ being is an actuator and, in particular, a contactor.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~ ~~claims 11 to 14~~, wherein the switch-on and switch-off signals ~~being~~ are received on a plurality of channels.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~ ~~claims 11 to 15~~ claim 11, wherein at least one of the falling edge ~~or~~ and both edges of the switch-on pulse ~~(401) being~~ are evaluated in order to start the predeterminable period of time in which the electrical unit ~~(14, 14', 24, 24')~~ can is be switchable on.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~ ~~claims 11 to 16~~ claim 11, wherein the predeterminable period of time for switching on the electrical unit ~~(14, 14', 24, 24')~~ corresponds to at least one of ~~to~~ the activation time of the electrical unit ~~(14, 14', 24, 24')~~ and/or a further protective device.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for safety-related switching of a plurality of protective devices ~~(11, 21)~~ connected in cascade fashion, a second of the plurality of protective devices ~~(21)~~ being connected with the aid of a first of the plurality of protective devices ~~(11)~~ in accordance with the method as claimed in ~~one of claims 11 to 17~~ claim 11.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the switch-on signal ~~making~~ makes all of the plurality of protective devices ~~(11, 21)~~ available simultaneously.

20. (New) The protective device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the electrical unit is a contactor.

21. (New) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the switch-off signal originates from a latchable emergency-stop pushbutton.

22. (New) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the electrical unit is a contactor.

23. (New) A protective device for safety-related switching of an electrical unit, comprising:

means for receiving a switch-off signal;

means for switching the electrical unit off;

means for receiving a switch-on signal in the form of a switch-on pulse; and

means for switching the electrical unit on, the electrical unit being switchable on for a predeterminable period of time after reception of the switch-on pulse.

24. (New) The protective device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the electrical unit is a contactor.

25. (New) The protective device as claimed in claim 23, wherein the electrical unit is a contactor.